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BOOK REVIEWS

Reconstruction in Georgia: Economic, Social, Political, 1865-1872. By C. Mildred Thompson, Ph.D. [Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. LXIV, No. 1.] (New York: Columbia University Press, 1915, pp. 418.)

No serious reader of this valuable monograph can fail to wonder that either the author or the university which sponsored the publication, could have been willing to give it to the public without an index. Because of its comprehensive scope and careful treatment, its excellent bibliography, and its innumerable citations of the abundant source material which the author has so skilfully used, the work will have permanent reference value for future investigators and students. This makes it the more regrettable that its value for reference purposes should not have been made infinitely greater by provision of an adequate index.

Somewhat less attention is given by Miss Thompson to the Federal side of reconstruction, and to the legal and constitutional aspects of the reconstruction acts, than was given in the earlier monograph of Edwin C. Woolley, "The Reconstruction of Georgia" (Columbia University, 1901). But the present treatise is so much broader in scope and so much more adequate in treatment of the topic, drawing from a vastly richer field of sources and displaying more skill and more maturity of judgment in use of the material, that in all essentials it supersedes the earlier publication.

Part I, after an excellent miniature sketch of "Georgia in the War" and an admirable account of the "Transition from Slavery to Freedom," relates the economic difficulties of the first two years after the war, under the wage system, the share system, and tenancy; the beginnings of revival in commerce and of social readjustment; and the early political reorganization under President Johnson's terms. "In 1865 and 1866 the people of Georgia lent themselves in good faith to the demands made upon them by the President's scheme

of restoration. Measures were accepted as necessary to restoration, quietly and submissively, and naturally without enthusiasm." Unfortunately the policies advocated by the conservative New York Times had few sympathizers in the North. "Because a Southerner, who had given his whole-souled allegiance for four years to the Confederacy, did not immediately shout—Hurrah for the Stars and Stripes—and because the master of slaves, the instant emancipation became fact, did not look upon the freedman as a friend and a brother," Carl Schurz and other idealists "saw omens of recurring rebellion and reenslavement."

It was natural but most unfortunate, that the North should misconstrue the motives which caused the election of Alexander H. Stephens and H. V. Johnson to the United States Senate. These men, and others, who "were fitting representatives of Georgia in 1866," were not permitted a voice in the reconstruction of the state. General Pope expressed what seems to have been the prevailing Northern attitude in his words to General Grant, "It is surely better to have an incompetent but loyal man in office, than to have a rebel of whatever ability. In fact, the greater the ability, the greater the danger of maladministration." We may regret that the scope of the work could not have been sufficiently extended to treat more fully of the framing of reconstruction policies in Washington, of the motives by which they were inspired, and the influences which impeded the progress of what might have been a much quicker, easier, and more amicable reconstruction. "The basis on which Congress acted in enforcing new reconstruction upon the Southern states in 1867 was that they were still in a condition of war;" although "as far as Georgia is concerned, at the end of 1866, there was no condition of war, either flagrant or otherwise." At the close of 1865 the people "were ready to make the best of things, and a year later they were hopeful of making things better." But from Northern distrust, vindictive resentment, political scheming, and the Congressional squabble with President Johnson, matters became worse instead of better.

Part II tells the unhappy story of the continuance of military rule, the "restoration" of 1868, the scandals of the administration of Governor Bullock, and the final steps toward the full readmission of the state, accomplished in February, 1871. In Part III are given a general survey of agricultural and economic development, a brief sketch of "Schools, Churches and Courts," and an interesting chapter on "Ku Klux and Social Disorder." On the whole Georgia fared well, we are told, as compared with the neighboring states, the process of her reconstruction showing "a marked moderation in her government, a lesser degree of reconstruction evils, less wanton corruption and extravagance in public office, less social disorder and upheaval." "The Conservatives of Georgia made their mistake in being strong enough to gain control too soon to suit the Radicals in Congress, who still were the real keepers of Georgia. . . The trouble was that the Conservatives considered solely what was best for the white people of Georgia, instead of viewing reconstruction as a national political problem and consulting the pleasure of the Republican leaders in Congress and the effect of Georgia proceedings on public opinion in the North."

C. S. T.

Studies in Southern History and Politics. Inscribed to William Archibald Dunning — By His Former Pupils, The Authors. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1914. pp. VIII, 394).

This volume contains fifteen essays, by as many authors, treating various phases of Southern activity and thought and problems: the growth of the spirit of secession; some legal and constitutional problems of the Confederacy; and the reconstruction period, closing with several studies of the new South, economic, educational, and political. Naturally, the essays are not all of equal value. It is also obvious that none of the topics are treated exhaustively, for completeness was precluded by the limitations of space. The chief value of the work as a whole is in making available, in reasonably popular form, a series of careful interpretive studies of